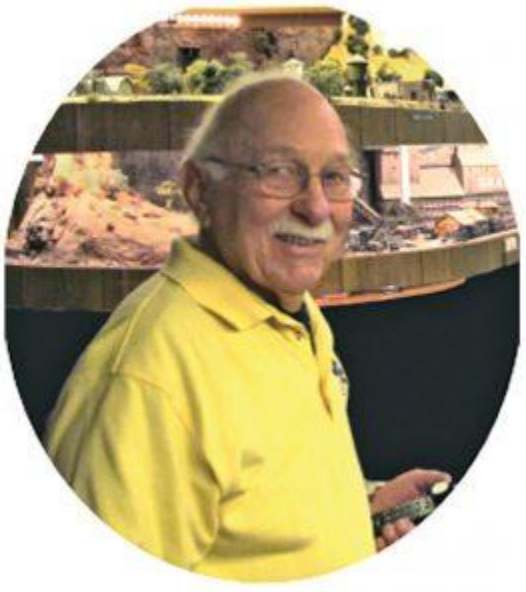
MMR_0207 James B. Vail



James Vail Obituary

James Bradford Vail III

September 13, 1934 - January 28, 2018

Resident of Santa Cruz

Friends and family sadly say farewell to a loving father, grandfather, and passionate model railroader, Jim Vail, who passed away here early Sunday, following a lengthy illness at the age of 83. Born in Wadena County, Minnesota, he moved to Santa Cruz as a youngster with his mother Verley Vail and his father, Dr. James Vail II.

Jim treasured memories of his childhood days living in an innocent Santa Cruz, where a boy could camp in the

redwoods, with his buddies, or ride bicycles at night without a care or concern. Jim had a lifelong love of cars and trains. Jim built two street rods for himself, the latest being a 1941 Chevy convertible, that he loved to bring out on warm summer days.

Jim started building model trains at the age of 11, with an ongoing persistence that saw him recognized internationally.

Jim's layouts were visited by people throughout the world, he enjoyed sharing his craft with other modelers by giving educational clinics at National Model Railroad Association conventions and writing monthly articles published since 1988, for the " *Narrow Gauge and short line Gazette*" magazine. Jim achieved the level of Master Model Railroader along with numerous other awards.